

Religion

Chapter 4

Our Conscience, Our Guide

Vocabulary

- **Conscience**-the ability to know the difference between good and evil, right and wrong.
 - Like an inner voice that helps us to make the right choice
- **Examination of Conscience**-The act of determining whether the choices we have made showed love for God, ourselves and others

We Believe

- Through Baptism we are called to become more like Jesus:
- We become more like him when we:
 - Think like Him
 - Speak like Him
 - Act like Him
- Sometimes we move away from God instead of moving closer to Him.



The Story of a Father and a Son from the Gospel of Luke 15:11-12,14,17-20

- A man had two sons, the younger asked for his inheritance so that he could be on his own.
- After he had spent all of his money, a famine struck and he could not even get food.
- He realized that his father's workers had more food than he did, so he decided to go home and ask to be treated as one of his workers.
- The son realized that he had sinned against his father
- His father so him coming from far away and ran to welcome him.

The moral of the story

- God will always welcome us back even when we turn away from Him.

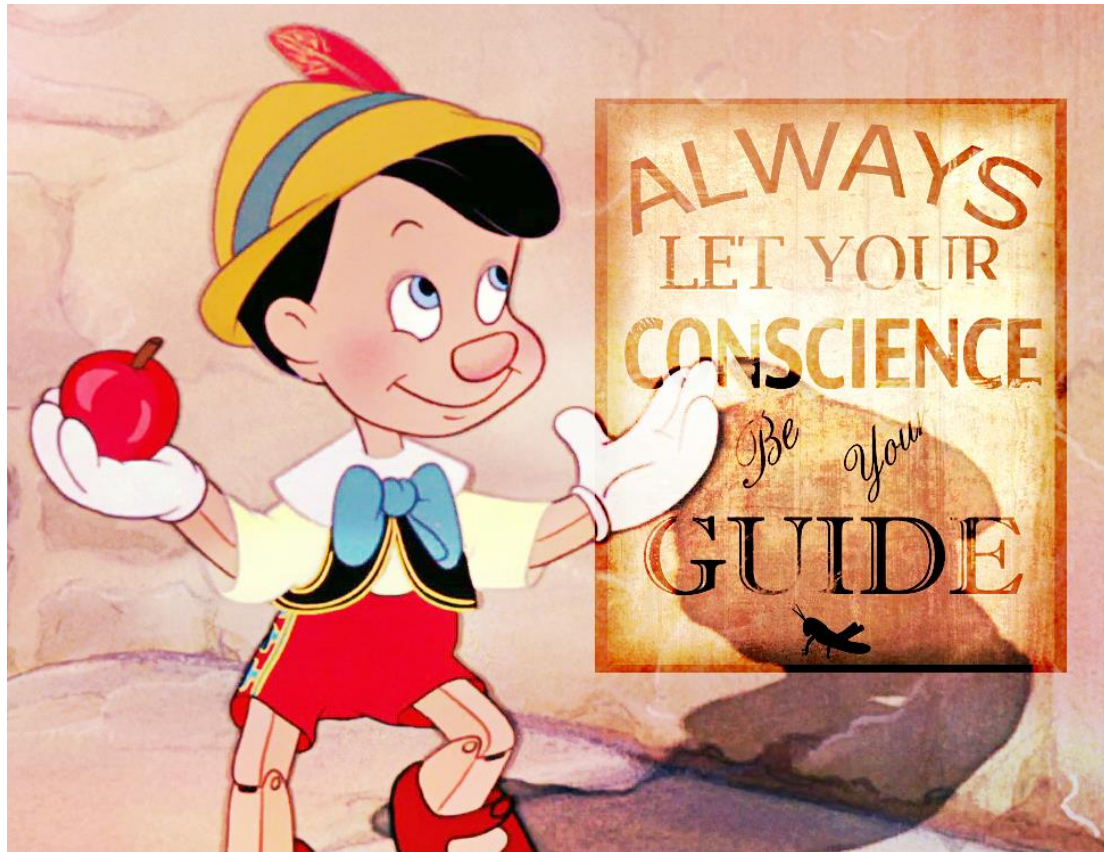
THE PRODIGAL SON
Luke 15



"A man had two sons. The youngest said, 'Give me my part of your riches.' The son left, and spent all of his money foolishly."

What helps us to make good decisions?

- To help us decide if our actions are good or sinful, God gave us a **conscience**.



Conscience works in 3 ways:

- It works before we make decisions
 - Helps us consider the result of our choices
- It works while we are making the decision
 - Brings on a feeling of either comfort
 - Or
 - Brings on a feeling of discomfort
- It works after we make decisions
 - To judge the decision we have made

A Good Conscience leads us to:

- Be truthful and fair
- Guides us to make decisions based on the teachings of Jesus
- To live the way God created us to live
- FORMING A GOOD CONSCIENCE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Examination of Conscience

- The act of determining whether the choices we have made showed love for God, ourselves and others
- It is important to think about the thing we do and say everyday



How can we examine our conscience?

- Try to think about the ways we have loved God and others
- Think about the ways we are living as disciples of Jesus
- Ask ourselves if we have sinned by either:
 - Doing things we know are wrong
 - By not doing the good things we could have done
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us judge our actions and examine our consciences.

Times to examine your conscience

- At night before we fall asleep
- Before we celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- We can examine our conscience at any time, especially after we make a decision



St. Thomas More



- Born in England in 1477
- Was a lawyer and scholar
- King Henry appointed him chancellor of England
- King Henry decided that he should name himself the Head of the Church of England.
 - He forced people to accept him in that role
- Sir Thomas More could not accept this so King Henry had him put to death.
- St. Thomas More is know for following his conscience and the teachings of Jesus.
- He is the patron saint of lawyers